

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 01676 181229Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8518
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS DACCA 1676

E.O. 11652: N/A
TSGS: BTIO, BG
SUBJ: KUWAITI AND ABU DHABI FINANCING FOR EAST-WEST INTER-
CONNECTOR PROJECT

1. THE BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI WILL FINANCE THE FIRST PHASE OF A PROJECT TO INTEGRATE BD'S TWO ELECTRICAL POWER GRID SYSTEMS. KUWAIT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE \$23.5 MILLION AND ABU DHABI \$15 MILLION IN SOFT LOANS TO BEGIN WORK ON THE PROJECT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COST \$77 MILLION AND TAKE FOUR YEARS TO COMPLETE.

2. THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE CONSTRUCTION OF 94 MILES OF 230 KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT, OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE FROM THE TONGI GRID SUBSTATION JUST NORTH OF DACCA TO THE ISHURDI GRID SUBSTATION IN NORTHWEST BANGLADESH. THIS WILL INCLUDE A NINE-MILE STRETCH CROSSING THE JAMUNA (GANGES) RIVER.

3. BPDB HAS APPOINTED ACRES ENGINEERING, A CANADIAN FIRM, TO UNDERTAKE ENGINEERING DESIGN WORK FOR THE PROJECT UNDER A CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA) GRANT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT INTERNATIONAL TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED UPON COMPLETION OF
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THE DESIGN WORK.

4. FOR USDOC AND SINGAPORE: PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO INTERESTED U.S. FIRMS.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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